

Chemical Terrorism Preparedness: The Basics

EPA's Response to Chemical and Biological Emergencies

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Presentation Overview

- ◆ What is the NRS and how does it work?
- ◆ How is EPA involved in response to chemical and biological emergencies?
- ◆ How will the new National Response Plan change the existing system?
- ◆ What are EPA's other roles in this area?

What is the National Response System?

- ◆ Multi-agency/multi-level system to prepare for and respond to oil and hazmat releases
- ◆ In existence for 30 years
- ◆ Designed to support state and local responses

NRS Authorities

- ◆ Clean Water Act (as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990)
- ◆ CERCLA
- ◆ The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA)
- ◆ National Contingency Plan

Which Agencies are in the NRS?



- ◆ Plus state and local representatives

How Does the NRS Work?

- ◆ The NRS supports hazmat preparedness and response through:
 - Federal On-Scene Coordinators
 - Regional Response Teams (RRTs)
 - National Response Team (NRT)
 - National Response Center (NRC)
 - Response Contractor Support

NRS Special Teams

- ◆ EPA Environmental Response Team
- ◆ EPA Radiological Environ. Response Team
- ◆ NOAA/EPA Scientific Support Coordinator
- ◆ USCG National Strike Force
- ◆ USCG District Response Groups
- ◆ USCG Public Information Assist Team
- ◆ US Navy Supervisor of Salvage
- ◆ Radiological Assistance Teams

FOSC Authorities

- ◆ Respond to any environmental emergency
 - Regardless of cause or material released
- ◆ Act immediately when public health or the environment is threatened
- ◆ Respond when other response or enforcement capabilities are exceeded
- ◆ Direct or oversee response

Primary Roles in Response to Chem/Bio Emergencies

- ◆ Assistance to FBI in evidence collection, threat assessments and hazard determinations
- ◆ Assessment of public health/environmental impacts
- ◆ Containment, decon, and restoration
- ◆ Waste disposal

How will HSPD 5 change the current system?

- ◆ New National Response Plan for all hazards and all disciplines
- ◆ Clarification of who's in charge and how national capabilities will be coordinated
- ◆ New National Incident Management System

Other EPA Roles

- ◆ Develop/provide protective action guidance
 - Anthrax Technical Assistance Document
 - Determining Adequacy of Cleanup
 - Health and Safety Manual for EPA OSCs
- ◆ FIFRA implementation
 - Pesticide registrations
 - Crisis exemptions

Other EPA Roles – R&D

- ◆ Safe Buildings Program
 - Detection, Containment, Decon, Disposal
- ◆ Water Security Research Program
 - Characterization and Detection
 - Response and Mitigation
 - Prevention and Protection
- ◆ Rapid Risk Assessment
 - Info Systems and Tools
 - Risk Estimation
 - Risk Communication

Other EPA Roles

- ◆ **Strategic Plan for Homeland Security**
 - Critical Infrastructure Protection
 - Preparedness, Response, and Recovery
 - Communication and Information
 - Protection of EPA Personnel and Infrastructure
- ◆ **Technology Verification and Clearinghouse**
 - ORD
 - Technical Support Working Group
 - epatechbit.org
- ◆ **BioWatch**

Questions?

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